

His Mother's Valentine

By E. L. HENDERSON

(Copyright, 1927, by Associated Literary Press.)

V. J. was a valentine. There could be no doubt about this. He was born on the 14th of February; his mother had named him Valentine, and he bore the outward semblance of one—moreover, of that offensive type popularly known as comic.

No one knew what V. J. Vincent, as he invariably signed himself, had suffered from this combination of circumstances. Hair of unmitigated red, a nose of unconventional length, inquiring ears and a dimpled chin were, he told himself, heavy enough burdens to bear, without the necessity of smiling cheerfully at the endless jokes to which he submitted on each recurring 14th of February. He had learned to accept the hair and ears and nose with resignation, but the dimples, perpetually laughing at the rest of his face, were still a sensitive point; and in a beardless era when fashion demanded glaring honesty in chins, a conspicuous one. He could only fall back on an unflinching sense of humor for support.

V. J.'s name was appropriate in more than one respect. In the lace-trimmed, cupid-adorned creations displayed in February, there is usually found, hidden under a heart-shaped leaf, a little apartment warm with sentiment. In V. J.'s being, there was a similar recess, but so cunningly concealed that few suspected its existence.

Its sentiment was, however, bubbling up on this particular morning of the 14th of February as he passed the Merrill home, bound off to work. He had hoped to see Marcia Dillon at the window. Instead, he caught a smile from her young cousin, Dana Merrill. Fortunately, he did not catch the remark that followed it: "Doesn't Val Vincent look like a comic valentine?"

"His face is rather an intelligent one for a comic valentine," responded Marcia. "He has good eyes." "Oh, yes, but eye-glasses are not becoming. I wonder if anything would be very becoming to Val?" laughed Dana.

"He has a fine forehead," Marcia spoke in the manner of one determined to see justice done to an unpromising subject.

"It's a high one, certainly, and improving right along. Actually, Marcia,

grinning boy withdraw from the room. Then, "Confound the name, anyway!" he exclaimed.

If V. J. ever wavered in a deep sentiment of reverence for his mother she had given him. At home there was a series of valentines, pictures taken on his successive birthdays, by which she had emphasized the name's absurdity. They ran up to thirteen, when the subject had rebelled. Then, after an interval, there was one more, sent from a distant college—a poorly finished, staring caricature of a youth in his teens, of which a fastidious regard for dress and a sentimental pose were conspicuous features. How delighted his mother had been with this particular valentine!

He arose and walked to a mirror. "It's a freak of a face," he declared, surveying his reflection sternly and critically. "It looks," he said, "as if it had repented at the last and tried to do something in the beauty line. Could anything be more harrowing and inharmonious! No sane girl could ever bring herself to the point of accepting the wearer of such a face." He would never make a fool of himself by asking it. No! The matter was settled definitely, finally and forever, he declared.

The role he was to play henceforth seemed, however, a tame and colorless one as he sat that evening in the Merrill library talking to Marcia. He delayed taking up the book they were reading together.

It had been a dangerous experiment, the reading of that book. An interest in it had led to regular meetings, during which Propinquity had been busy after the manner of that efficient ally of Cupid.

In V. J.'s case the mischief had been done before he reached chapter three. This was inevitable. Marcia was pretty. She had a merry face, with all sorts of charming little curves playing over it; and his heart leaped out toward the sense of humor it indicated. Then no one could look at her mouth and chin and not gain a hint as to her character. Sane, sweet and sensible were the adjectives those features spelled. But V. J. understood. For him there could be only frank friendship. He resolutely picked up the book for the closing chapters.

And just then Dana opened the door and tossed into Marcia's lap a large envelope. "It came this afternoon while you were out," she explained. "I thought you had it."

"Who in the world is sending me a valentine of this sort?" exclaimed Marcia, picking up the filmy, fancy envelope. "Oh, I know. It's Dickey, Mrs. Ashton's little boy. I was over there yesterday, and he was valentine crazy. Didn't you want to see it?"

V. J. leaned over as Marcia drew out the valentine; and then there fell a thick and sudden silence. From a setting of lace paper, rose-hued hearts and plump cupid, there looked up at him his own face, the familiar college caricature, beneath which in letters which seemed clamoring to be read, were the words:

"I am your valentine. Will you, sweet maiden, not be mine?"

Marcia's face was flushed and angry. "Those silly girls!" she exclaimed. "I do not think girls of that age—"

Her voice broke as she began to replace the valentine in its envelope.

V. J. put out a restraining hand and took the picture. "It looks to me," he observed, "as if St. Valentine has had some odds and ends left when he finished his yearly assortment and had thrown them together to save the scraps. An old fellow of his experience ought to know that an incongruous mixture of the comic and the sentimental is never successful."

But Marcia did not laugh. "I know all about that picture," she said indignantly. "Mrs. Ashton told me yesterday how happy it made your mother one Valentine's day. Gwen should be thoroughly ashamed of herself!"

To V. J. there was something wonderfully sweet and intimate in this mention of his mother by Marcia. Certain resolutions melted in its warmth. There was a moment's silence. Then, "I am waiting," he reminded.

Marcia looked up inquiringly. "There is a question, you know. I couldn't ask it myself, but this young fellow has had the audacity to ask it for me. You haven't answered it yet."

And the answer must have been satisfactory, for V. J. never, as he had sworn to do, destroyed his mother's valentine. Something in a nature full of sentiment forbade his doing so.

Only One Way to Get Relief. Like conditions produce like results. Europe is king-ridden, aristocracy-ridden, privileged-class ridden, army and navy ridden and, of course, tax-ridden. We should be the exception, but by following an evil example we are in the same category.

There can be no change in Europe except by revolution. The United States can get relief by defeating the standpatters, the jingoists and the imperialists, and just at present it looks as if they would do it at the next election.

Valuable Crucifix. Ten years ago a carved ivory crucifix was bought at a rag fair at Reus. On her death, soon after, the purchaser left the crucifix to her daughter, wife of the deputy, Senator Mayner. A visitor to the house offered Senator Mayner \$500 for it, but it was refused. An antiquarian, learning of the existence of the crucifix, offered \$75,000 but this, too, was declined. It is now known that the crucifix is one of the finest carvings of Leonardo da Vinci. An offer of \$125,000 from an American collector is now being considered.

Oratory of the Blood-Stirring Style Marked a Columbia University "Contest." No little red schoolhouse in a country town of the middle west furnished a rarer sight than might have been witnessed at Earl Hall, Columbia university, one night recently, declares the Brooklyn Eagle. It was a genuine, live oratorical contest, such as stir the blood of the "Demosthenes Debating Society of Bumbleville." All that was lacking was a great iron stove for heating purposes, into which from time to time thoughtful members would toss four-foot sticks of wood. On this occasion the heat was principally upon the stage.

The eight contestants had selected their own themes and presumably written their own addresses. These ran the gamut from a midnight fire in a tenement to an exegesis on Delaunay theories of setting. The Roman gladiators had their Spartacus—for the night at least. Child labor was de-

AGAINST PARCELS POST

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM IS EXPLICIT ON THE POINT.

Regulation by the Government, but Not Ownership, Was Favored—Evils Sure to Follow in Wake of Proposed Policy.

In view of the innovations now proposed of government ownership and operation of the express, telegraph, telephone business, etc., Democratic leaders are pointing out that the platform declared in favor of efficient regulation of such utilities, but not in favor of government ownership and operation of the same. The historic position of the Democratic party, it is recalled, is that public expenditures shall be limited to the needs of government economically administered. Republican members of prominence declare that in this attitude there is little or no difference between those who follow the ideals of Jefferson and those who follow the principles of Lincoln. Old-line Republicans as well as old-line Democrats, not imbued with socialistic principles, are now sometimes predicting that, within a surprisingly few years, they will be found shoulder to shoulder fighting socialism.

These are saying that the government's entrance into the express-carrying business is sure to be followed by a terrific effort upon the part of all those who have privately, if not publicly, accepted the teachings of socialism, for the government's entrance into ownership and operation of the telegraph systems; and, if into these, why not into all others?

The first would entail, they say, an additional army of employees, federal control of all highways wherever operated, innumerable drays, wagons, automobiles and warehouses and the enlargement and rebuilding of postoffices necessary to carry "the billions of parcels" predicted by the Postmaster General. The condemnation and taking of the property of the express companies, they say, would almost inevitably result in the government ownership and operation of railroads, something which the "Postal Progress League," which has engineered the campaign for parcels post, openly advocates "with lowest possible rates regardless of distance," as they express it. Reilly bill H. R. introduced last session provides for this.

As American postal employees are paid about twice the salaries of employees of the express companies, twice the salaries of postal employees in England and three times as much as in some countries, and as the average haul would be at least ten times as long as in England, it is estimated that the deficit from parcels post would amount to at least \$150,000,000 yearly. Large mail order corporations have had their representatives in behalf of this legislation before the senate postoffice committee. This is causing some of those who want to avoid the impending deficit again to point to what is said in the Democratic platform about "favor-seeking corporations."

All Opposed to Paternalism.

Southern Democratic leaders, aside from their historic antipathy to extension of Federal power and consequent loss of importance to self-government and of the rights of states, have another reason for aversion to the socialistic and paternalistic program proposed by the Republicans. This is a reason which made Mr. Bryan's winking at government ownership and operation of railroads detract from his popularity in the south just after his triumphal tour abroad. In his speech upon landing: Government operation of these utilities means obliteration of the color line. The "Jim Crow" car system in vogue upon all southern railroads would have to be discontinued and whites and blacks would ride in coaches together. Southern senators and representatives are beginning to realize that the operation of an express-carrying business by the Federal government means that control of highways by counties and states will pass to a nation with a swollen "N."

Secrecy and Silence.

The resolution passed by the house of representatives asking the president to make public all endorsements of candidates for appointment to the federal bench is in the line of desirable publicity. It rests upon the same idea as that which is embodied in the law providing for the publication of campaign contributions and expenditures.

Mr. Bryan suggested some time ago that the president make public the recommendations on which he had acted in making recent judicial appointments, and those who are quick to defend secrecy and silence in government denounced the proposition as an "insult." Congress now repeats the request on behalf of the people. Is this also an insult?

Only One Way to Get Relief.

Like conditions produce like results. Europe is king-ridden, aristocracy-ridden, privileged-class ridden, army and navy ridden and, of course, tax-ridden. We should be the exception, but by following an evil example we are in the same category. There can be no change in Europe except by revolution. The United States can get relief by defeating the standpatters, the jingoists and the imperialists, and just at present it looks as if they would do it at the next election.

Knox's Tour III Advised.

If Secretary Knox's South American tour is to be regarded as a junket it is calculated to irritate European powers, making it seem as if we were intriguing to secure adherence to our policy. On the other hand, weaker republics may view the presence of an American war ship in their ports, bearing a cabinet minister from Washington as covert coercion. In this case Mr. Knox's tour would be regarded not as a junketing, but as a swashbuckling expedition.

IS THE PAIN THERE?

"Every Picture Tells a Story"



Then Your Kidneys May Be Weak and in Need of Quick Attention

Backache is enough cause to suspect the kidneys. The kidneys are in the small of the back. Congested kidneys swell and throb. The back naturally aches. It hurts to bend or stoop or to sit down.

Kidney trouble may come on all unnoticed. A cold, a chill, a fever, a strain or irregular habits may start it. While sick kidneys can be cured in the beginning, it is a serious matter when dropsy, gravel or Bright's disease sets in.

Doan's Kidney Pills have made a reputation in the cure of backache, and kidney and bladder ills. The best proof is the testimony of the users. Here are two typical testimonials. Thirty thousand others are being published in the newspapers. A postage stamp will bring you reports of cases nearer home.

If you suspect your kidneys, get the best-recommended kidney remedy.

MRS. EMILY HOWES.

Who Resides at 1700 Burling St., Chicago, Ill.

Made Well After Being Almost Helpless from Wasting Kidney Troubles. "I had awful pains through my hips," says Mrs. Howes, "and frequently wished I had never been born. I seemed to have lost all interest in life. I doctored for female trouble thinking my condition was due to some derangement of that nature, but got no better. Finally I began using Doan's Kidney Pills and to my surprise I began to improve. They not only corrected the kidney action, but stopped the pain and sickness I had thought was due to female trouble."

A. DEARTH.

A Resident of Camden, O.

Cured After Being Confined to Bed for Seven Weeks. "I was in bed seven weeks with kidney trouble," said Mr. Dearth, "and grew worse in spite of all the doctor could do. Kidney secretions were in terrible condition. If left standing they thickened like glue and had to be removed with a knife. My own doctor gave me up. I then called in a specialist who said I was beyond recovery. I had lost over 20 pounds and was but a shadow of my former self. I used one box of Doan's Kidney Pills and soon felt better. Continuing I was cured and have not had the slightest trouble since."

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

SOLD AT ALL STORES. 50 CENTS A BOX. FOSTER-MILBURN COMPANY, BUFFALO, N. Y.

WOMEN'S LEAP YEAR RIGHTS

In Scotland Years Ago They Were Recognized as Real, and Well Defined by Law.

Ancient, indeed, are the prerogatives that are accorded to women in leap year. They are so old that none can tell just how or when they originated. However, the ancient Scottish parliament gives us a date as well as a law upon which to hang the right of women to take the initiative in leap year, as convention forbids them to do in other years.

In the year 1228 this body passed a law which, in its quaint old English, expressly conferred on womankind the right to propose marriage in leap year. Here is the law, just as it was written in the parliamentary records:

"Ordonit that during ye reign of her maist blessed Maistie, Ilka maiden, laide of bath high and lowe estate, shal hae libertie to speak ye man she likes. Gif he refuses to tak hir to be his wyf, he shal be mulct in ye sum of an hundred pundes, or less, as his estate may be, except and always gif he can make it appear that he is betrothit to another woman, then he shal be free."

HANDS WOULD CRACK OPEN

"About two months ago my hands started to crack open and bleed, the skin would scale off, and the good flesh would burn and itch dreadfully. When my hands first started to get sore, there were small blisters like water blisters which formed. They itched dreadfully, it just seemed as though I could tear the skin all off. I would scratch them and the skin would peel off, and the flesh would be all red and crack open and bleed. It worried me very much, as I had never had anything the matter with my skin. I was so afraid I would have to give up my employment.

"My doctor said he didn't think it would amount to anything. But it kept getting worse. One day I saw a piece in one of the papers about a lady who had the same trouble with her hands. She had used Cuticura Soap and Ointment and was cured. I decided to try them, and my hands were all healed before I had used one cake of Cuticura Ointment. I am truly thankful for the good results from the Cuticura Soap and Ointment, for thanks to them I was cured, and did not have to leave a day from work. I have had no return of the skin trouble." (Signed) Mrs. Mary E. Brelg, 2522 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 12, 1911.

Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold everywhere, a sample of each, with 32-page book, will be mailed free on application to "Cuticura," Dept. L, Boston.

A Bad Beginning.

"Whenever Jiggers starts to tell anything he prefaces his remarks by saying, 'Believe me.'"

"That's why I never do."

It isn't difficult for a man to see his affinity in a woman with an obese bank account.

Loveliness of character is nothing but steady love of good and steady scorn of evil.—Froude.

Garfield Tea, taken regularly, will correct both liver and kidney disorders.

We can do more good by being good than in any other way.—Burton.

PUTNAM FADELESS DYES

Color more goods brighter and faster colors than any other dye. One life package colors all fibers. They dye in cold water better than any other dye. You can dye any garment without ripping apart. Write for free booklet—How to Dye, Bleach and Mix Colors. MONROE DRUG COMPANY, Quincy, Ill.

THE WINNER.



She—Speech is silver and silence is golden. He—But the man with the most brass gets the tin.

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* In Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Hard to Find.

"Here are some verses entitled, 'The Road to Arcady.'"

"Pshaw! Almost any poet can tell the way to Arcady, but none of them ever gets there."

When Your Eyes Need Care

Try Murine Eye Remedy. No Smarting—Feels Fine—Acts Quickly. Try it for Red, Weak, Watery Eyes and Granulated Eyelids. Illustrated Book in each package. Murine is compounded by our oculists—not a "Patent Medicine"—but used in successful physicians' practices for many years. Now dedicated to the public and sold by Druggists at 25c and 50c per Bottle. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago

An Alarmist.

"Jibcock is a very disquieting individual."

"Indeed he is. Jibcock seems to have been born with no other purpose in life than to yell 'Fire!'"

Use Allen's Foot-Ease

The antiseptic powder to be shaken into the shoes for tired, tender, smarting, aching, swollen feet. It makes your feet feel easy and makes walking a Delight. Sold everywhere, 25c. For free trial package, address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Brangs Considerably.

"Has Biffels any favorite fiction?"

"Yes. And it's mostly about himself."

For liver and kidney troubles, nothing is quite so mild, pleasant and effective as Garfield Tea.

Perhaps a rolling stone gathers no moss because it isn't on the level.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets, small, sugar-coated, easy to take as candy, regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. Do not gripe. Some men don't know very much, but they don't know it.

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE." That is LEWIS'S BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of J. W. GROVE. Used the World over to Cure a Cold in One Day. 25c.

When a man does things he hasn't much time to talk about them.

To Introduce the Gate-Post

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING PRIZES: First prize, \$15.00 Third prize, \$5.00 Second prize, \$10.00 Fourth prize, 100 Gate Posts

To any one person making the most correct words out of the eight letters in GATE POST not using the same letter twice in any one word. Each contestant list must be accompanied with a Gate Post tin foil wrapper and mailed to SPRENGER BROTHERS, PEORIA, ILL. By Special Request We Have Extended the GATE POST CONTEST until March 15th, 1912. Ask your DEALER for GATE POST TIN FOIL WRAPPER

DON'T PUT YOUR MONEY INTO ROOF COATING

Why buy cheaply made, inferior roofings that must be frequently painted and repaired when your local dealer sells

GAL-VA-NITE ROOFING "TRIPLE ASPHALT COATED, MICA PLATED" NEEDS NO PAINT—NO AFTER ATTENTION FIRST COST—LAST COST

Gal-va-nite Roofing is the cheapest in the long run because it is made to stand the wear and tear of the elements without after trouble or expense.

It is 15 pounds heavier than the standard weight and is constructed only of the best of materials. Its unusual weight makes it proof against heavy winds and hail storms.

Gal-va-nite Roofing has been approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and takes a low rate of insurance. It is a non-conductor of heat and electricity or lightning.

Attractive in appearance, easy to lay, suitable for either steep or flat roofs, Gal-va-nite is the ideal roofing for any kind of a building in any kind of a climate. It has stood the "Test of Time."

Gal-va-nite is put up in rolls 108 square feet complete with zinc coated, galvanized nails, cement and illustrated directions sheet. Made in 3 weights. Ask your dealer for Gal-va-nite or write us for samples and booklets, "Galvanite Qualities" and "The Inside of an Outside Proposition."

FORD MANUFACTURING CO. ST. PAUL OMAHA CHICAGO KANSAS CITY ST. LOUIS



Many who cannot afford 10c cigars are now smoking LEWIS Single Binder straight 5c cigars. You pay 10c for cigars not so good. You will like LEWIS Single Binder. A fresh, hand-made cigar. Better tobacco, better made and better tasting than most 10c cigars. Many prefer LEWIS Single Binder to 10c cigars.

You Look Prematurely Old

Because of those ugly, grizzly, gray hairs. Use "LA CREOLE" HAIR DRESSING. PRICE, 50c, retail.